

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 11 as follows. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus, comprising:  
input means for inputting multivalued image information;  
conversion means for converting the input multivalued information into first data representing a number of print dots for each pixel;  
generation means for generating second data representing the total number of print dots in each region made up of a plurality of pixels, based on the first data;  
a memory for storing the second data generated by said generation means;  
and  
print dot layout determination means for inputting from said memory a plurality of the second data comprising the second data of a region of interest and the second data of at least one region around the region of interest, and determining a print dot layout in the region of interest in accordance with the plurality of the second data.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus, comprising:  
input means for inputting multivalued image information of an image;  
conversion means for converting the input multivalued image information into first data representing a number of print dots for each pixel;

generation means for generating second data representing the total number of print dots in each region, which is made up of a plurality of pixels, based on the first data;

a memory for storing the second data generated by said generation means;  
and

print dot layout determination means for inputting from said memory a plurality of the second data comprising the second data of a region of interest and the second data of at least one region around the region of interest, and determining a print dot layout in the region of interest in accordance with the plurality of the second data,

wherein, when the image is to be rotated, said generation means generates the second data for print dots for each of different regions in accordance with a rotational angle.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said generation means comprises:

first generation means for generating the second data in binary form in a region made up of a predetermined number of successive pixels in a main scanning direction; and

second generation means for generating the second data in binary form in a region made up of a predetermined number of successive pixels in a subscanning direction,  
and said generation means outputs:

when an image is not rotated, the second data generated by said first generation means, directly,

when an image is rotated through  $180^\circ$ , the second data generated by said first generation means, in an inverse order,

when an image is rotated through  $90^\circ$ , the second data generated by said second generation means, directly, and

when an image is rotated through  $270^\circ$ , the second data generated by said second generation means, in an inverse order.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising image printing means for printing an image on a printing medium in accordance with the print dot layout output from said print dot layout determination means.

6. (Previously Presented) An image processing method, comprising the steps of:

an input step of inputting multivalued image information;

a conversion step of converting the input multivalued image information into first data representing the number of print dots for each pixel;

a generation step of generating second data representing the total number of print dots in each region made up of a plurality of pixels, based on the first data;

a memorizing step of storing the second data generated by said generation means in a memory; and

a print dot layout determination step of inputting from said memory a plurality of the second data comprising the second data of a region of interest and the

second data of a least one region around the region of interest, and determining a print dot layout in the region of interest in accordance with the plurality of the second data.

7. (Previously Presented) An image processing method, comprising the steps of:

inputting multivalued image information of an image;

converting the input multivalued image information into first data

representing a number of print dots for each pixel;

generating second data representing the total number of print dots in each region, which is made up of a plurality of pixels, based on the first data;

storing the second data generated by said generating step in a memory; and

a print dot layout determination step of inputting from the memory a plurality of the second data comprising the second data of a region of interest and the second data of at least one region around the region of interest, and determining a print dot layout in the region of interest in accordance with the plurality of the second data,

wherein, when the image is to be rotated, the generating step generates the second data for print dots for each of different regions in accordance with a rotational angle.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 7, wherein the generation step comprises:

a first generation step of generating the second data in binary form in a region made up of a predetermined number of successive pixels in a main scanning direction; and

a second generation step of generating the second data in binary form in a region made up of a predetermined number of successive pixels in a subscanning direction,

and said generating step outputs,

when an image is not rotated, the second data generated in the first generation step, directly,

when an image is rotated through  $180^\circ$ , the second data generated in the first generation step, in an inverse order,

when an image is rotated through  $90^\circ$ , the second data generated in the second generation step, directly, and

when an image is rotated through  $270^\circ$ , the second data generated in the second generation step, in an inverse order.

9. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for an image processing method, the program comprising the steps of:

an input step of inputting multivalued image information;

a conversion step of converting the input multivalued image information into first data representing the number of print dots for each pixel;

a generation step of generating second data representing the total number of print dots in each region made up of a plurality of pixels, based on the first data;

a memorizing step of storing the second data generated by said generating step in a memory; and

a print dot layout determination step of inputting from the memory a plurality of the second data, comprising the second data of a region of interest and the second data of at least one region around the region of interest, and determining a print dot layout in the region of interest in accordance with the plurality of the second data.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the print dot layout in the region of interest is determined in accordance with a difference between the total number of print dots in one side region of the region of interest and the total number of print dots in another side region of the region of interest.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 10, wherein dots of the print dot layout in the region of interest are distributed in a main scanning direction, when the difference is small and the total number of print dots in the region of interest is small.